

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A kit for diagnosing a condition of early vascular dysfunction and/or vascular disease and/or spontaneous abortion, said kit comprising means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to Platelet Activating Factor (PAF) and/or antibodies to an antigen that binds to antibodies to PAF in a sample of body fluid of a patient to be tested for early vascular dysfunction and/or vascular disease and/or spontaneous abortion,

said means for testing comprising a ligand selected from the group consisting of phosphocholine, phosphorylcholine and ~~lysophosphatidylcholine~~ lysophosphatidylcholine; and

means for determining from the assayed concentration of either or both of said antibodies whether or not the patient is at risk for having cardiovascular disease and/or early atherosclerosis and/or spontaneous abortion.

2. (Currently Amended) A kit for diagnosing early vascular dysfunction and/or vascular disease and/or spontaneous abortion, said kit comprising

means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to Platelet Activating Factor (PAF) and/or antibodies to an antigen that binds antibodies to PAF; and

means for testing for the concentration of at least one further diagnostic indicator for said disease or condition selected from the group consisting of cholesterol, blood ~~klipids~~ lipids or p-hydroxyphenylaldehyde-lysine.

3. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1 adapted for diagnosing of cardiovascular disease.

4. (Original) The kit of claim 3 wherein said diagnosing of a cardiovascular disease comprises a diagnosis of early atherosclerosis, hypertension or thrombosis.

5. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the presence and /or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen that binds to antibodies to PAF comprises means for measuring either or both of said antibodies by immunoassay.

6. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen that binds to antibodies to PAF comprises measuring

either or both of said antibodies by an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.

7. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen that binds to antibodies to PAF comprises means for providing measuring either or both of said antibodies by radioimmunoassay.

8. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing is adapted to act on said sample of body fluid which is serum prepared from a blood sample.

9. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing is adapted to act on said sample of body fluid which is plasma prepared from a blood sample.

10. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1 wherein said sample of body fluid is a human blood sample or fraction thereof, and said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen that binds to antibodies to PAF

comprises measuring either or both of said antibodies by immunoassay.

11. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1, wherein said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies comprises phosphocholine.

12. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1, wherein said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies comprises phosphorylcholine.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 1, wherein said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies comprises lysophosphatidylcholine.

15. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 2, wherein said antigen that binds to antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of phosphocoline, phosphorylcholine, and lysophosphatidylcholine.

Claims 16-19 (Cancelled).